United States Patent [19]

Harte

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[54] **INPUT MECHANISM FOR WORD PROCESSOR**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **340/712;** 340/718; 178/18

[58] **Field of Search** 340/709, 712, 706, 707, 340/718; 178/18, 19; 434/118

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This invention is an input device that enables the user to take symbol sequences such as whole words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or other multi-symbol sequences from a computer's memory and have these symbol sequences printed out or displayed by some other means such as a computer monitor. This invention uses a grid of points of switch closure, where each point is identified by an alphanumeric or other code; and where each point of switch closure can be individually activated by the user. Printed sheets of material are accurately positioned over this grid of switch closure points. Printed on these sheets of material are: 1, symbol sequences; and 2, response areas adjacent to each symbol sequence. Each response area lies over one of the switch closure points. When a switch closure point is activated by the user, the electronically coded grid of coordinates for that point are sent to the computer's memory where this particular code causes the computer's memory in conjunction with other hardware to print out or display the same sequence of symbols as are printed on the sheet adjacent to the response area that was activated by the user.

By input means, the user may indicate that the sequences of symbols are to be typed out, or are to be displayed on a monitor, or are to be processed in some other manner. The sequences of symbols entered by the user by this process can be mixed with symbol sequences entered by the user by other processes such as a keyboard. After the user has developed his sequences of symbols from this and other sources of input, these symbol sequences can be edited, deleted, or modified in a standard word processing manner.

27 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets